(iv) India also has bilateral trade treaties with Nepal and Bhutan, under which duty-free access has been provided to goods from these two countries, on non-reciprocal basis.

Labelling use of Vanilla products

941. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a plan for a rescue package for vanilla farmers;

(b) whether Ministry of Health has been asked to make it mandatory to label the use of synthetic vanilla and natural vanilla on the product; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Government has announced a scheme to provide subsidy to the Vanilla Growers under which M/s STCL would procure vanilla beans from growers and would sell the vanillin extracts to the Dairy/Confectionery industry.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Health was requested for marking it mandatory labeling of ice-cream which uses synthetic vanilla or artificial flavour who have informed that under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, the label indicating the names of ingredients used in the products in descending order of the composition by weight and volume including all package food and ice cream is mandatory. Products using synthetic vanilla or artificial flavour need to be labeled as "contains artificial flavours".

Support to small tea growers in Assam

942. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the per cent contribution of small tea growers in the overall productivity of the country with special reference to Assam;

(b) the kind of financial and other support Government is extending and proposes to extend towards enhancing quality production by small tea growers in Assam;

(c) the major constraints of small tea growers in their rapid growth and sustenance; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to mitigate their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The contribution from small tea growers to the national tea production is around 250 million kgs and it accounts for nearly 25% of the all India tea production of which 10% is accounted for by small growers in Assam.